
A New Species of *Psychotria* Subgenus *Psychotria* from Nicaragua

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ABSTRACT. The new species *Psychotria hamiltoniana* C. M. Taylor is described based on recent collections from the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua; this species is related to *P. neillii* C. W. Hamilton & Dwyer.

RESUMEN. Se describe la especie nueva *Psychotria hamiltoniana* C. M. Taylor basada en colecciones recientes de la costa caribeña de Nicaragua; es afín a *P. neillii* C. W. Hamilton & Dwyer.

During study of recent collections from the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, the following new species was discovered. It belongs to *Psychotria* L. subg. *Psychotria*, which was monographed for Central America by Hamilton (1989). The herbarium of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua-León, where specimens of this new species are deposited, does not yet have an international acronym; it is here referred to as "HULE."

Psychotria hamiltoniana C. M. Taylor, sp. nov.

TYPE: Nicaragua. Río San Juan, municipio de El Castillo, Reserva Indio-Maíz, Cerro El Diablo, 11°01'N, 84°12'W, 250 m, 9 Jan. 1997, R. Rueda, I. Coronado, O. Auraúz & F. Flores 5618 (holotype, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua-León (HULE); isotype, MO-4895236). Figure 1.

Haec species a *Psychotria neillii* C. W. Hamilton & Dwyer foliorum majorum petiolis longioribus atque inflorescentiae axe brevior ac bracteis floralibus longioribus distinguitur.

Shrubs and small trees to 3 m tall, flowering at 2.5 m tall; stems terete, densely short-pilosulous often becoming glabrescent with age. Leaves paired; blades oblanceolate to obovate or occasionally lanceolate, 14–31 cm long, 6–16 cm wide, at apex acute to acuminate with tips to 20 mm long, at base cordulate with sinus to 12 mm deep, papraceous, adaxially glabrous, abaxially moderately to densely pilosulous, often more densely so along costa and secondary veins; secondary veins 8–18 pairs, ascending to spreading but less than 90°, usually at least weakly looping to interconnect in an undulating submarginal vein with 1–2(3) usually rather weak intersecondary veins present between

pairs of secondary veins, adaxially the costa and remaining venation plane, abaxially the costa prominulous to prominent and the secondary veins and reticulated minor venation prominulous; petioles 3–9 cm long, densely short-pilosulous; stipules densely short-pilosulous, caducous or sometimes persisting on distalmost 1–2 nodes, interpetiolar, triangular to lanceolate, 18–34 mm long, acute to very shortly bifid, usually somewhat asymmetrical and twisted, with a thickened basal triangular portion. Inflorescences and flowers not seen. Infructescences terminal, erect, with peduncles 2.5–3 cm long; panicles subglobose, 3–7 × 2–6 cm, with 2–3 sets of secondary axes, with the axes 4–6 per rank and unequal, with the remains of old flowers and developing fruits sessile in glomerules of 2–3 or usually separated along cymose branches; bracts all deltoid to ovate, 1.5–2.5 mm long, acuminate; peduncle, axes, and bracts apparently green, densely short-pilosulous to hirtellous or the bracts often glabrescent; fruits ellipsoid, ca. 5 × 3.5 mm, not flattened laterally, pilosulous to hirtellous, orange to red, with the persistent calyx limb ca. 1 mm long, puberulous to glabrescent, deeply lobed, lobes obtuse to rounded; pyrenes with 3–5 low, rounded to angled, longitudinal ridges.

Distribution, phenology, and habitat. In wet forest at 120–250 m, southeastern Nicaragua. Collected in fruit in January, February, and December.

This species is distinguished by its pilosulous pubescence on vegetative structures, red-black-drying color, obovate to oblanceolate, petiolate leaves that are cordulate at the base, shortly pedunculate inflorescences with relatively short, unequal axes that are produced 4–6 per rank, bracts 1.5–2.5 mm long, fruits orange to red at maturity, and pyrenes dorsally with low longitudinal ridges or angles. Although flowers have not been seen, these characters clearly distinguish this species. *Psychotria hamiltoniana* belongs to *Psychotria* subg. *Psychotria*, and within this, to "Group 1" of Hamilton (1989). Within "Group 1" it is similar to *P. neillii* C. W. Hamilton & Dwyer, which can be distinguished by its leaves 8–18 × 3–7.5 cm, petioles 2–8 mm long, stipules 6–14 mm long, peduncles 3–10 cm long, bracts subtending inflorescence

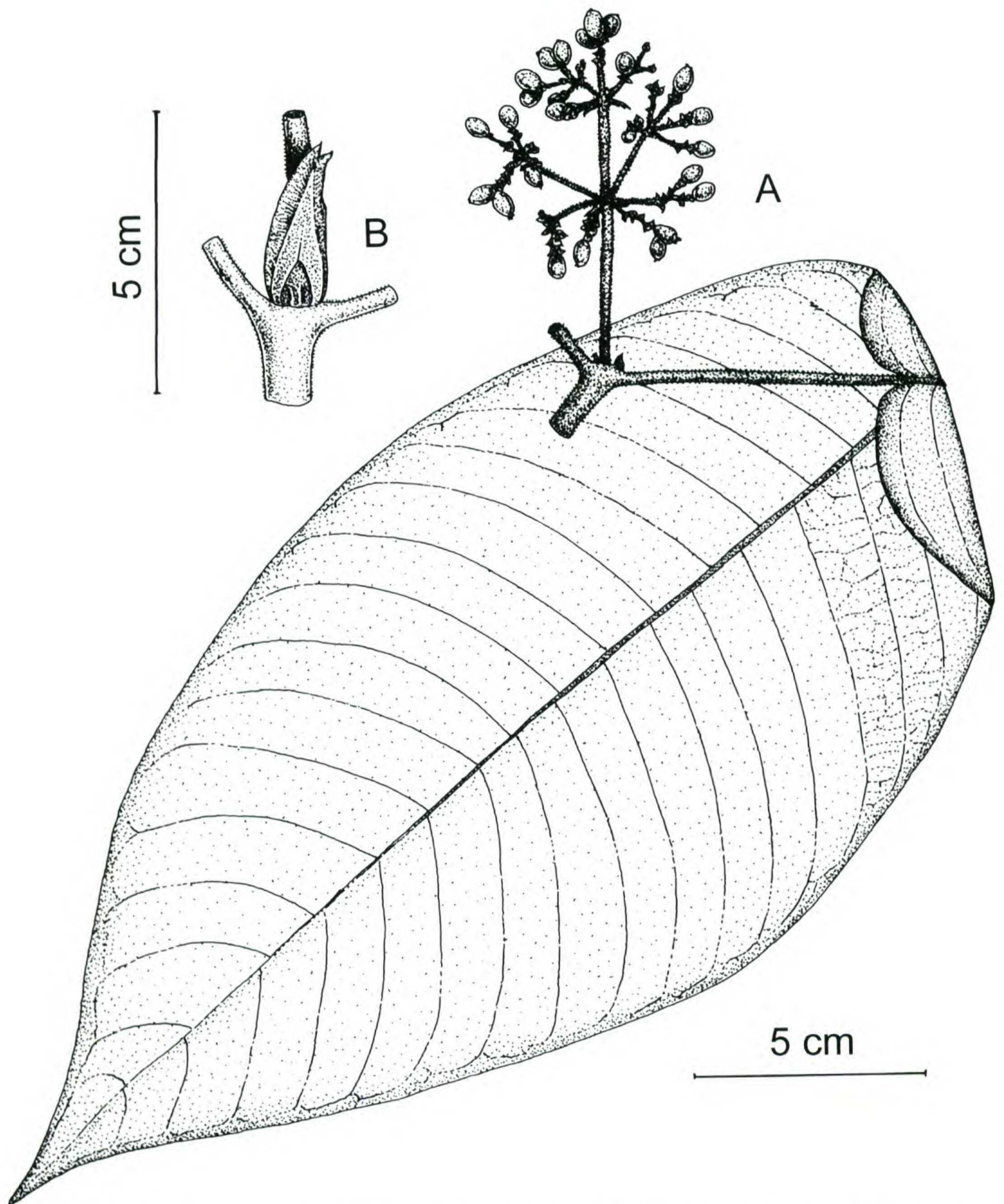


Figure 1. *Psychotria hamiltoniana* C. M. Taylor. —A. Fruiting branch with infructescence, based on Rueda *et al.* 5618. —B. Node with stipule, based on Rueda *et al.* 5322.

axes 3–4 mm long and floral bracts ca. 0.5 mm long, flowers subsessile to pedicellate with pedicels to 1 mm long, and calyx limb ca. 0.5 mm long. *Psychotria hamiltoniana* is also similar to *P. insignis* Standley, which can be distinguished by its stipules ca. 12 mm long, leaves with secondary veins 12–20 pairs and diverging 100–105° from the costa, sessile inflorescences with the secondary axes

subequal at each node, and flowers all produced in glomerules. The specific epithet honors Clement W. Hamilton, who studied the Central American species of this group.

Paratypes. NICARAGUA. Río San Juan, municipio de El Castillo, Reserva Indio-Maíz, a lo largo del Caño El Pavón, a 3 km de su desembocadura en el Río Bartola, 11°01'N, 85°16'W, Rueda *et al.* 5140 (MO, HULE); a 8

km de la cabecera del Río Bartola, 11°01'N, 84°14'W, *Rueda et al.* 5266 (MO, HULE); a 8 km de la cabecera del Río Bartola, en dirección hacia el Cerro El Diablo, 11°01'N, 84°14'W, *Rueda et al.* 5322 (MO, HULE); a lo largo del Caño Chontaleño, 11°07'N, 84°12'W, *Rueda et al.* 5810 (MO, HULE).

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Literature Cited

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